

#### REMARKS

The invention as now claimed is a method for storing an adhesive in which the adhesive is stored in a frozen state in a thin walled or thin walled and roughened container.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 4, 7, and 10 to 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hull (WO 91/01711 A1) in view of Okamoto (JP 08-057051 A). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Hull discloses a medical dispensing system for making tissue adhesive components quickly available for surgical use and a process for preparing this system. This is accomplished by placing a solution or colloid containing the desired tissue adhesive component or components in a container, closing the container and freezing the solution or colloid in the container while the container is rapidly rotated around its axis. This results in coating at least one interior surface of the container with a thin coating of frozen tissue adhesive component. In use, the frozen contents are readily thawed, making them quickly available.

This is a decidedly different method from the instant invention in which the container is not rotated and the walls are not coated with a thin film of the contents to store the adhesive. Moreover, it is stated that the Hull container can be made of some plastics, metal, or glass. Certainly, the grouping of metal and glass with plastics indicates that these are not flexible containers. The container is also not thin-walled. Example 1 describes a syringe with an inside diameter of 0.35 inch, and an outside diameter of 0.42 inch, the difference being the thickness of the syringe at 0.07 inch. This translates to 1.778mm, considerably larger than the dimensions for the wall of the claimed container of claim 1 as now presented.

Thus, Hull does not make obvious the instant invention. There is no teaching or suggestion in Hull to use a thin walled container, or a flexible container, for the method of storing a frozen adhesive, as now presented by amended claim 1.

Applicants have obtained a translation of the Okamoto patent and include the translation for the Examiner's review. The previous understanding of the applicant as to the teaching of Okamoto is modified now that a non-computer translation is available. The Okamoto patent is directed to a syringe for holding liquid

medicines, the syringe prepared from PETD, a random copolymer of ethylene and TCD. TCD is a tetracyclododecene. Example 1 states that the syringe was prepared from an ethylene/dodecene copolymer known as Apel 6509, a product of Mitsui Petrolium Chemical Co. Information from the website for Mitsui indicates that the Apel syringes, including 6509 (T) have a flexural modulus greater than 2400 Mpa. A print-out of pages from that website are included for the Examiner's reference. Both the composition and the flexural modulus of the syringe used in the Okomoto patent are distinctly different from the composition and flexural modulus of the syringe in the instant claimed method as recited in claims 1 and 3. The flexural modulus for the instant container is considerably lower.

Although the surfaces in the Okomoto patent are roughened, they are roughened to create reduced sliding friction, and not to create anchoring points for the frozen adhesive. The roughening in the instant invention is provided to increase mechanical adhesion strength, thus reducing the likelihood of delamination leading to freeze/thaw voids. There is nothing in Okamoto to suggest or teach a method for storing frozen adhesives, particularly not in a syringe as thin walled or a flexible as claimed in the instant invention.

Applicant respectfully urges the Examiner to the conclusion that the above references, alone or in combination, do not make obvious the current invention, and that the claims are in condition for allowance.